

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 /016 W

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R 200422Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7951

UNCLAS KABUL 3045

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, ACOM, AF

SUBJECT: APO POUCH SERVICE

REF: DEPTTEL 95520

1. PARA 3 OF REF. ASKED US TO MENTION FACTORS THAT THE BUREAU DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT. WE MENTION THESE PLUS ITEMS WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE ERRORS IN THE DEPARTMENT'S CALCULATIONS. A SEPARATE MESSAGE ON OTHER ASPECTS WILL FOLLOW.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THE FOLLOWING ARE ERRORS:

(A) YOU STATED THAT OFFICIAL MAIL WOULD CONTINUE BY AIR POUCH FROM KABUL TO USA BUT WE BELIEVE OFFICIAL (POUCH) MAIL FROM KABUL TO USA SHOULD GO COMMERCIAL ONLY AS FAR AS TEHRAN ENTERING THE APO SYSTEM AND THENCE BY MILITARY AIR. THIS RESULTS IN A DEPARTMENT OVERESTIMATE OF \$5,830. OUR ESTIMATES FOR BOTH OFFICIAL AND PERSONAL MAIL NOW BEING AIRPOUCHED FROM KABUL TO WASHINGTON BUT TO BE AIRPOUCHED TO TEHRAN IS \$2,100.

(B) IN COMPARING THE TWO SYSTEMS YOU DID NOT LIST THE COST OF SURFACE POUCHES FROM WASHINGTON TO BEIRUT. WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH THAT IS BUT YOU DO KNOW AND SHOULD ADD IT TO THE \$61,000 QUOTE (TOTAL) UNQUOTE UNDER THE POUCH SYSTEM.

3. NOR DOES THE \$61,000 (TOTAL) CONSIDER FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES THE FIGURE OF \$3,600 FOR ANNUALIZATION OF THE 13 PERCENT FREIGHT RATE INCREASE REFERENCE KABUL A33 DATED 30TH APRIL 1974.

THIS BRINGS THE COST OF THE POUCH SYSTEM FOR FY-75 TO \$64,600 PLUS THE DOLLAR VALUE OF PARA 2B. SINCE THE NEW HIGHER

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FREIGHT RATES ARE INCLUDED IN THE FY-75 COSTS UNDER THE NEW

SYSTEM FOR THE AIR POUCH PORTIONS THIS RESULTANT AMOUNT OF \$64,600 PLUS SURFACE POUCH COST IS THE FIGURE WHICH SHOULD BE USED FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, OTHER FY-75 COST FACTORS YOU DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ARE:

(A) COST OF AIR POUCHES TO OTHER POSTS SUCH AS DHAHRAN, NEW DELHI AND PARIS. \$8,600

(B) EMPTY SACKS TO TEHRAN \$3,150

5. AS A RESULT THE FY-75 COST OF AN APO WOULD BE \$118,850. COMPARED TO YOUR ESTIMATE OF \$64,600 PLUS COST OF SURFACE POUCHES, THIS INCREASE FOR APO SERVICE IS LESS THAN \$50,000. OF WHICH STATE'S PORTION IS APPROXIMATELY 30 PER CENT SINCE THIS IS A SHARED COST.

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